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**Framingham Receives National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star and Urban Waters Grant
for the Beaver Dam Brook Stream Restoration and Education Program**

The Town of Framingham is pleased to announce that it was awarded the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters Grant for the Beaver Dam Brook Stream Restoration and Education Program. This \$23,825.00 grant will fund Water Wise Workshops and Nature Art Workshops in the summers of 2017 and 2018 at Mary Dennison Park. The Town of Framingham joins the following organizations as one of the recipients of this grant, including National Audubon Society, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the Water Institute of the Gulf (LA) and the Miami Science Museum. "A national grant with this focus is seldom awarded at the town level," stated Framingham Public Works Senior Stormwater and Environmental Engineer, Kerry Reed. "This grant was made possible because of our shared commitment with community partners to reconnect the southeast Framingham neighborhoods with their natural resources so that they can be appreciated, used and sustained."

The Five Star aspect of the grant builds on five community partners sharing the overall goal of community-focused conservation by teaching the principles of ecology and sustainability through interactive and innovative approaches. Town of Framingham partners will include the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the OARS watershed group, the Boys and Girls Club of MetroWest, the Lake Cochituate Watershed Council and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The Beaver Dam Brook Stream Restoration and Education Program will restore approximately eight hundred linear feet of riparian buffers, remove one acre of invasive species, and engage six hundred people in the local community around Beaver Dam Brook. Artwork developed at the workshops by local youth will be incorporated into educational signs to be installed along the riparian buffer at Mary Dennison Park.

"Working to restore natural resources for recreational use and to provide a natural habitat for wildlife is critical for generations to come," stated Reed.

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